



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WOMAN SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS FOR INTERFERENCE WITH FLIGHT
CREW MEMBERS AND ATTENDANTS**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today Christine Collins was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison and ordered to pay restitution to Southwest Airlines of over \$14,000 for interfering with a flight crew.

On June 20, 2003, Collins was a passenger on a Southwest Airlines flight from Las Vegas, Nevada to Houston, Texas. While aboard the flight she assaulted and intimidated the flight crew and interfered with the performance of their duties which resulted in the aircraft having to make an unscheduled landing in El Paso, Texas.

"In this day and age everyone knows that distributing the operation of an airplane can be a matter of life and death and must be taken seriously. There will be consequences regardless of who tries to disrupt the flight," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Margaret Leachman.

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